

Hurricane Hazel

South Carolina Impact Report

Hurricane Hazel

October 5, 1954- October 18, 1954

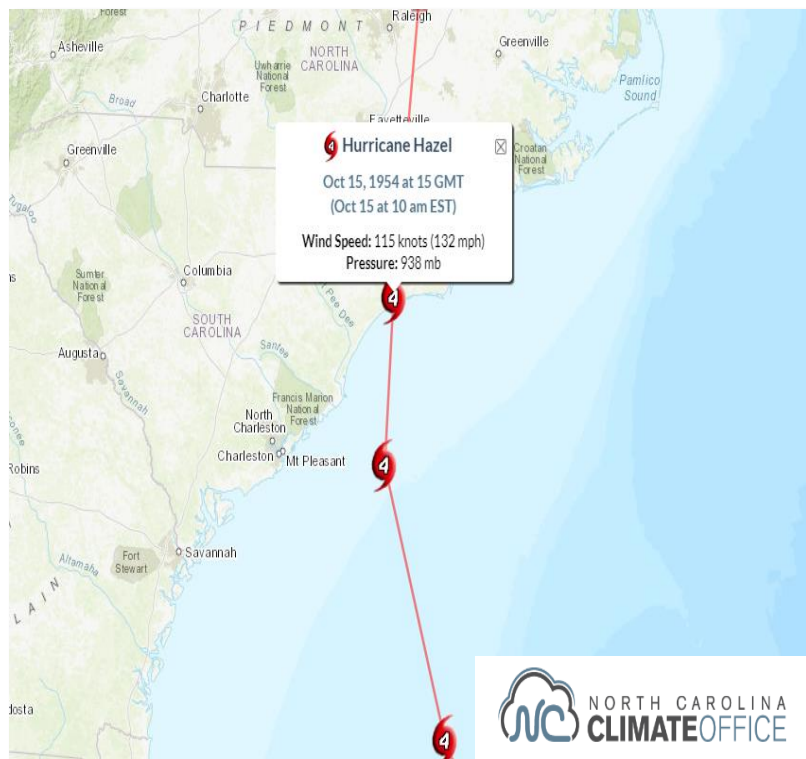
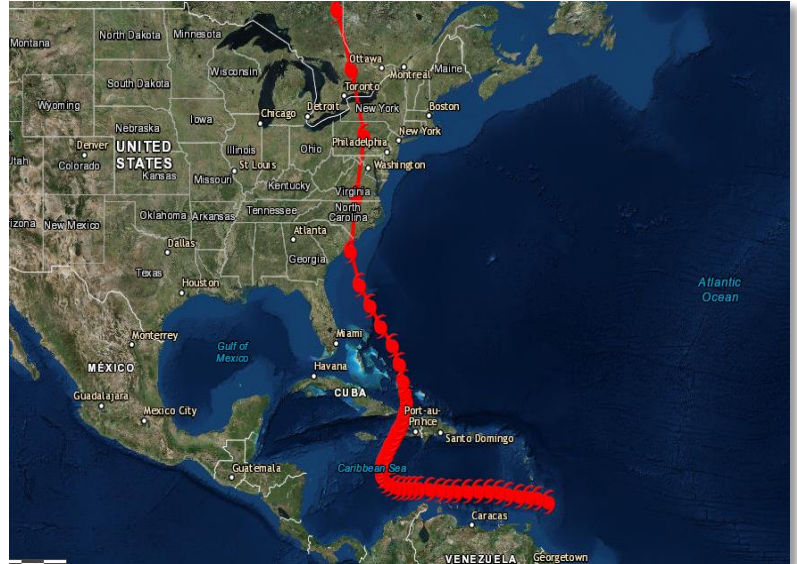


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Hurricane Hazel Event Summary



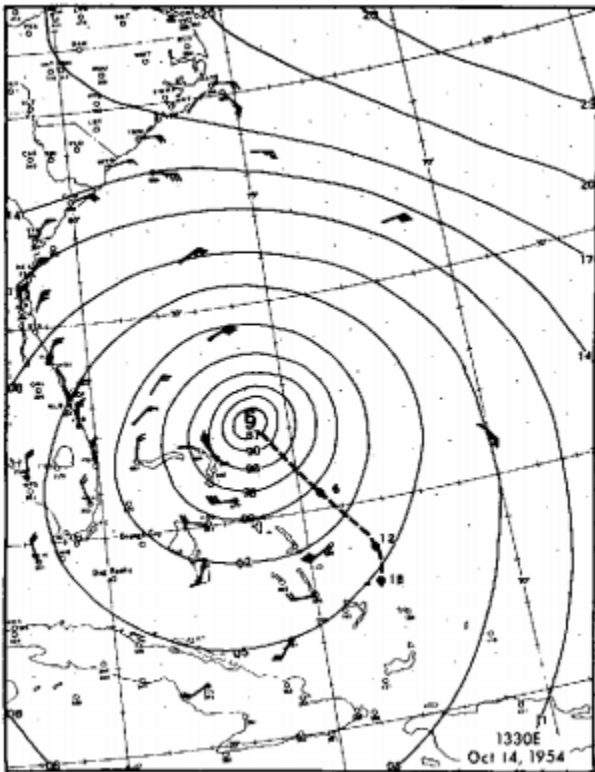
Hurricane Hazel is considered one of the deadliest hurricanes of the 1954 hurricane season. Hazel formed near the Windward Islands on October 5th with winds estimated near 100 mph. Over the next few days, Hazel continued to intensify as it moved west-northwest into the Caribbean Sea. Hazel moved northeastward then to the north-northwest from the 10th through the 15th when it made landfall near Little River at the border between North Carolina and South Carolina.



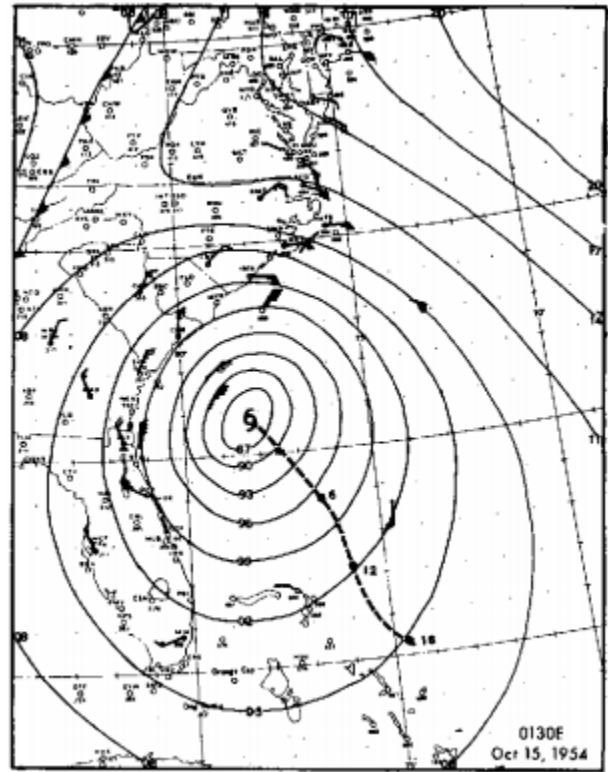
The coastal area near the landfall was battered by winds estimated to have been as high 150 mph. While moving inland, its winds diminished slightly with a gust reaching 110 mph reported at Fayetteville and 90 mph at the Raleigh-Durham Airport, Myrtle Beach, SC reported a peak gust of 106 mph. Storm warnings were issued at 11:00 a.m. EST on October 14th from Charleston, SC, to the Virginia Capes giving 24 hours advance notice to people along the coastal Carolinas. Hurricane

Hazel was extraordinary for retaining significant wind speeds well into Canada as it tracked northward over Washington, DC, and New York.

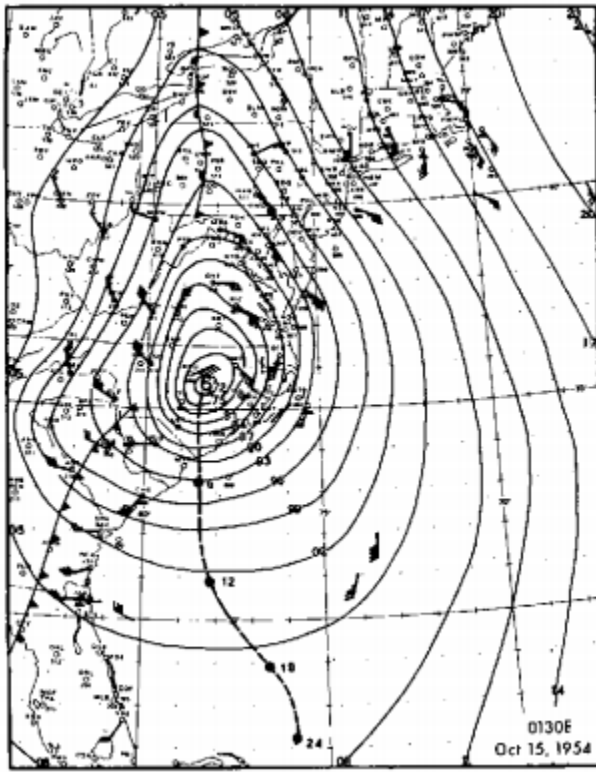
Hurricane Hazel Synoptic Charts



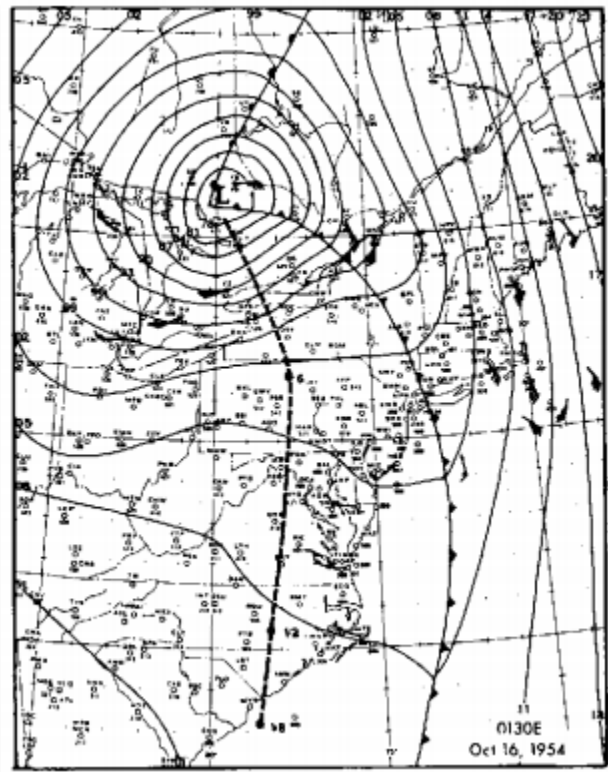
Oct 14, 1954



Oct 15, 1954



Oct 14, 1954



Oct 16, 1954

Hurricane Hazel 1954, October 14-15. Synoptic charts.

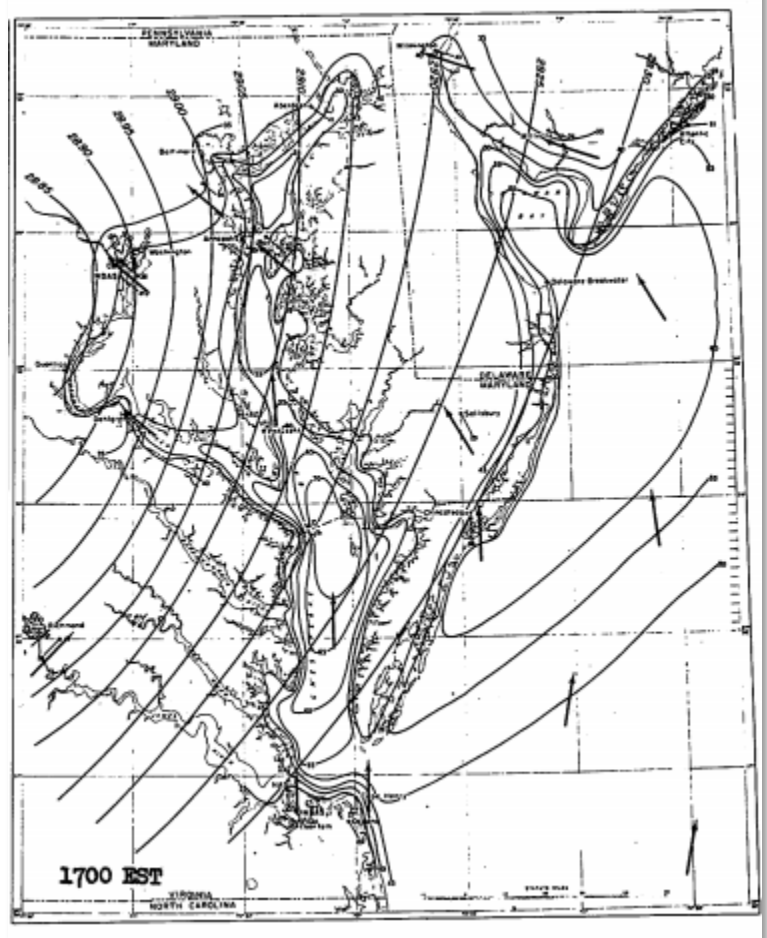
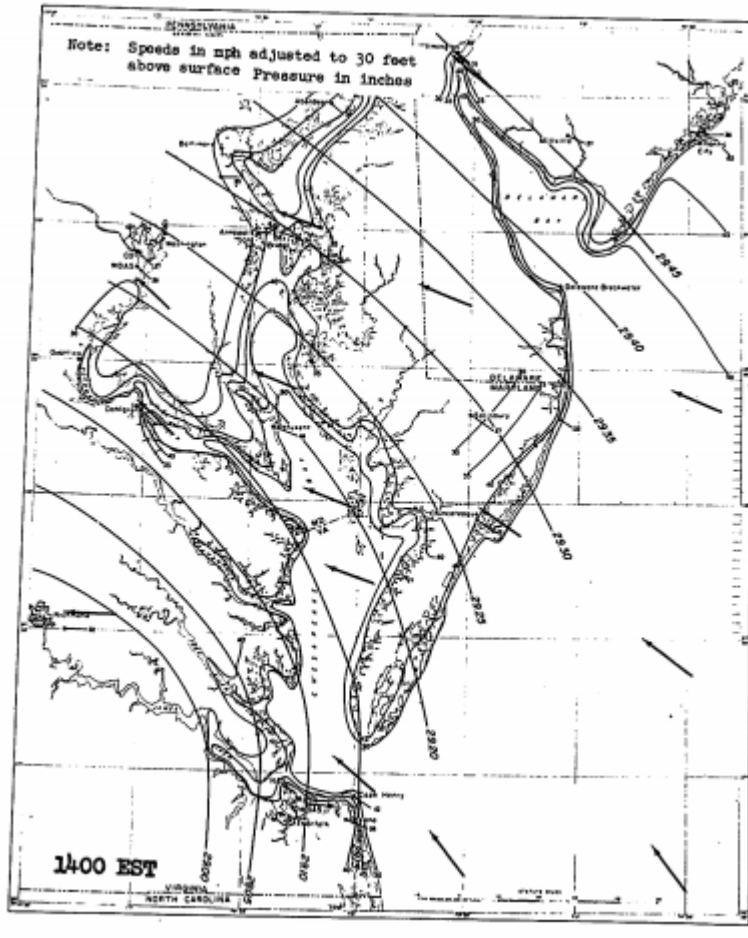
Check out the full report here:

https://coast.noaa.gov/hes/images/pdf/CHARACTERISTICS_STORM_SURGE.pdf?redirect=301ocm

Hurricane Hazel Synoptic Charts



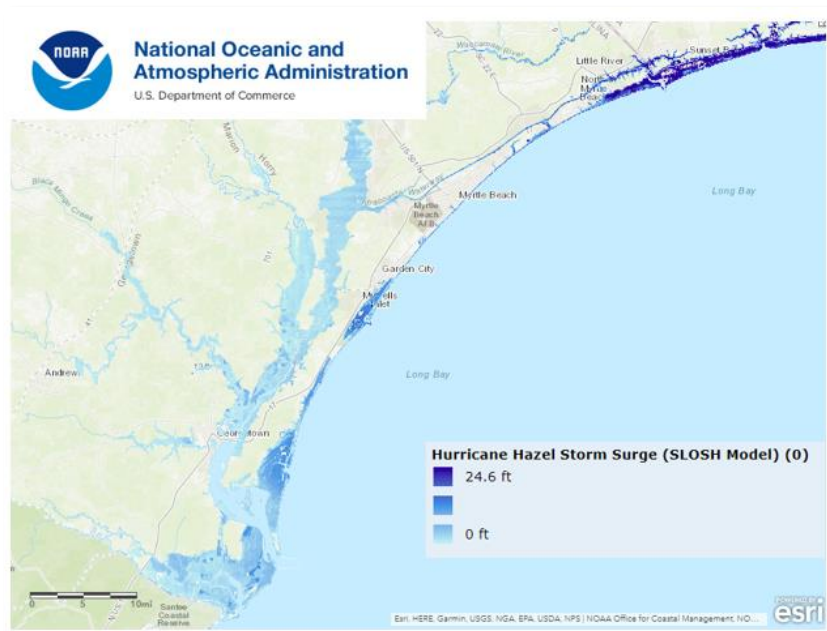
The following charts display wind speed, direction, and sea-level pressure distribution, October 15, 1954, 1400 and 1700 EST



Check out the whole report of reconstructed wind patterns for the surface wind fields over the coastal waters of the Atlantic Ocean and over the Chesapeake Bay area provided by H. E. Graham and G. N. Hudson

http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/general/lib/TM/NHRP_39_1960.pdf

Hurricane Hazel Storm Surge



The storm surge just east of the eye along portions of the Brunswick County coast reached 18 feet, highest near Calabash and Holden Beach. In Myrtle Beach upwards of 80 percent of the first row of beach structures were destroyed and wind gusts were measured at 102 mph.

According to a report published by the National Weather Service: "Oak Island, NC community of Long Beach 98 percent of beach structures did not survive the storm, and the few that did survive were heavily damaged. Grass-covered sand dunes 10 to 20 feet high simply disappeared during the storm on Oak Island, a testament to the power of the storm surge. A newspaper report says in Wrightsville Beach "most of the cottages along the water front had been washed away." Near Wilmington the same newspaper report says "three freighters had broken loose from their moorings and were moving down the Cape Fear River." Hazel is responsible for the highest stage ever recorded on the Cape Fear River at downtown Wilmington: 8.15 feet above mean lower low water. (MLLW) Based on recent surveys near the Cape Fear River, Hazel likely flooded Water Street to a depth of nearly three feet."

Check out the whole report of the ninth storm of the 1954 Hurricane Season here:
https://www.weather.gov/ilm/Top_20_Storms

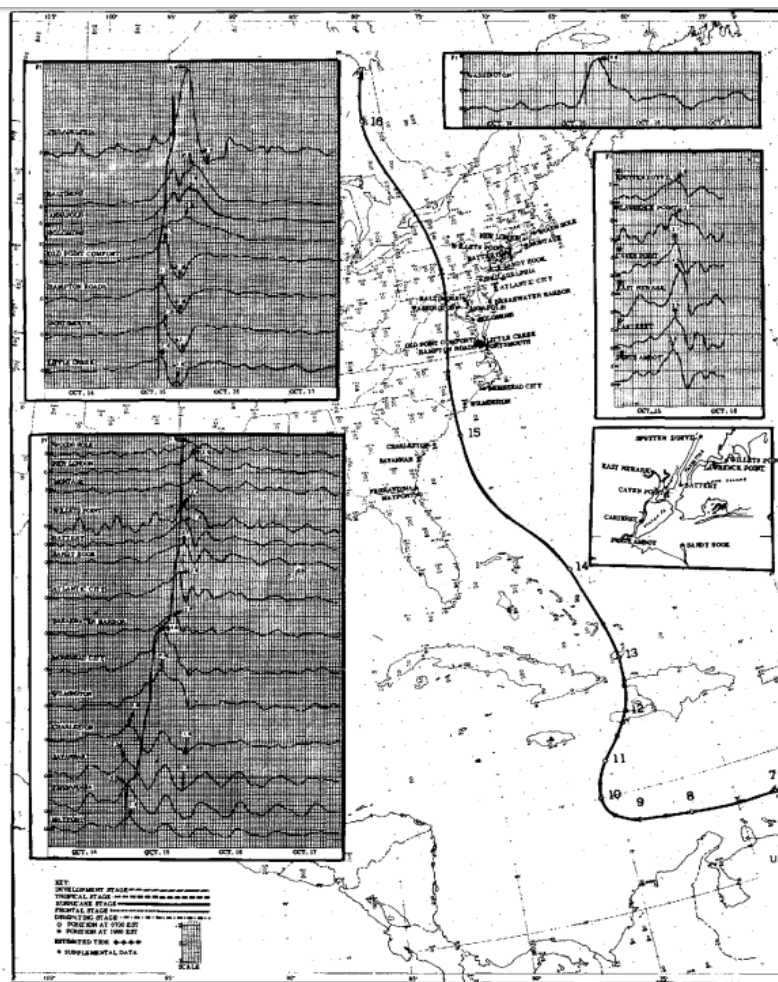


FIGURE 19.2—Hurricane Hazel 1954, October 14–15. Storm surge chart. Insert map for New York Harbor.

Hurricane Hazel Photos



Damage along the oceanfront at Myrtle Beach. Shaw Air Force base
Photo: Shaw Air Force Base

The Garden City home of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Todd of Columbia was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel. Shown above with a bed spring, one of the few things left on the home site. The second story of the house is in the background a block away.

Photo:Munn-Teal



Hurricane Hazel Photos



Damage in Myrtle Beach from Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Ervin Melton Provided photo

This house at Crescent Beach was demolished when Hurricane Hazel struck. Ervin Melton Provided photo

